

# HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK

## STUDIES IN INDIANA WOMEN'S HISTORY

Session 7

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### Takumwah, Leader through the Generations

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This presentation proposes to integrate learning from pre-history and early Indiana history through women's roles and in civic engagement, specifically Takumwah, a Myaamia (Miami) Native American woman. Takumwa's life story will be told through research of written documents and oral traditions found within the Myaamia (Miami) Native American community. The ideology of gender and leadership in the Myaamia Tribe will be explored through the life of Takumwah with an emphasis on the hierarchy of roles and the way they were lived out. Gender roles were changing during Takumwah's lifetime and this is evidenced in the divorce proceedings between Takumwah and her first husband, Joseph Druet deRichardville. Takumwah's ownership of the only portage necessary in an all water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico (through Indiana), highlights her life as an business woman and a powerful woman in Indiana.

Myaamia women's claim to authority, their daily life patterns, and the existence of duties and roles for Myaamia women held similarities to current women's lives. I hope to demonstrate the strength of power that tribal women enjoyed pre- and early post contact with European cultural entities through the life of Takumwah and how they relate to our modern society.

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